

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable battery, comprising:

a plurality of cells;

each cell of said plurality of cells including elements for electromotive force and each cell being formed in a rectangular shape having short sides with a narrow width, [and] long sides with a wide width relative to the narrow width, a top side, and bottom side;

each cell of said plurality of cells including ribs extending on said long sides;

said plurality of cells and being electrically interconnected and linked together adjacent to one another at the short sides ~~of their battery housings~~ to form a battery pack;

a first binding plate adjacent ~~one of~~ the long sides of the plurality of cells on a first side of the battery pack, the first binding plate having an outer side edge parallel with ~~one of~~ the short sides of the plurality of cells;

a second binding plate adjacent ~~another one of~~ the long sides of the plurality of cells on a second side of the battery pack opposing the first side of the battery pack, the second binding plate having an outer side edge parallel with ~~one of~~ the short sides of the plurality of cells;

at least one binding band at an end of the battery pack overlapping the outer side edge of the first binding plate and the outer side edge of the second binding plate; [[and]]

said first binding plate and said second binding plate forming coolant passages ~~between the first binding plate and the second binding plate~~ in conjunction with the first and second sides of the battery pack and the plurality of ribs; and ~~so that~~ coolant ~~passes~~ passing through the coolant passages.

2. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable battery, comprising:
a plurality of cells;

each cell of said plurality of cells including elements for electromotive force and each cell being formed in a rectangular shape having short sides with a narrow width, [and] long sides with a wide width relative to the narrow width, a top side, and bottom side;

each cell of said plurality of cells including ribs extending on said long sides;

said plurality of cells ~~[[being]]~~ including at least two groups of cells wherein the cells of each of the at least two groups are linked together adjacent to one another at the short sides of their battery housings to form a plurality of rows of at least two battery modules wherein the cells form at least one row in each of the at least two battery modules, these the at least two battery modules being arranged in parallel where the plurality of rows of battery modules are adjacent to one another between with the long sides of the battery cells of the respective ones of the at least two battery modules adjacent one another, and the plurality of rows of battery modules being linked together to form a battery pack and the plurality of cells being electrically connected;

a first binding plate adjacent ~~one of the long sides of a first row~~ of said ~~plurality of cells~~ on a first side of the battery pack, and the first binding plate having an outer side edge parallel with ~~one of the short sides of the first row~~ of said plurality of cells;

a second binding plate adjacent ~~another one of the long sides of a second row~~ of said ~~plurality of cells~~ on a second side of the battery pack opposing the first side, and the second binding plate having an outer side edge parallel with ~~one of the short sides of the second row~~ of said plurality of cells;

at least one binding band overlapping the outer side edge of the first binding plate and the outer side edge of the second binding plate; and

said first binding plate and said second binding plate forming coolant passages ~~between the first binding plate and the second binding plate~~ in conjunction with the first and second sides of the battery pack and the plurality of ribs; and

~~so that~~ coolant ~~passes~~ passing through the coolant passages.

3. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 2, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a heat transfer plate with thermal conductivity [[is]] provided between the battery modules disposed in parallel.

4. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 2, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a heat transfer plate with thermal conductivity [[is]] provided between the battery modules disposed in parallel, and end heat transfer plates exposed to the outside ~~from the plurality of integrated cells~~ are linked to [[the]] ends of [[this]] the heat transfer plate in the direction in which the battery modules are linked.

5. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 3 or 4, wherein [[a]] the coolant is made to flow through the heat transfer plate and/or the end heat transfer plates.

6. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of cells are linked together with the elements for electromotive force of each cell provided inside a battery case ~~in which the individual battery housings are integrally formed adjacent to one another between the short sides thereof,~~ and the battery cases are integrally linked together.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of cells are integrally linked with the linking position and linking direction varied as desired.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled).